

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

JAMES D. BUCHANAN,)
 Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) No. 18-CV-171-RAW
)
TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS,)
LLC, et al,)
 Defendant.)

VIDEO DEPOSITION OF
WILLIAM COOPER, D.O.

DATE: MARCH 27, 2019

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1 A On -- on Paycom.

2 Q Where would that be kept?

3 A Paycom.

4 Q Paycom?

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q Okay. But it was your general practice
7 to go in exactly one-week increments; is that
8 correct?

9 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: Generally. Like I
11 said early on, there's sometimes exceptions.

12 Q (By Mr. Miller) And you have no memory
13 of seeing Mr. Buchanan on the 8th or any other
14 day that week, correct?

15 A No.

16 Q You have no memory of ever seeing
17 Mr. Buchanan, correct?

18 A Correct.

19 Q A cervical epidural abscess, is that a
20 common complaint?

21 A No.

22 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

23 Q (By Mr. Miller) In your opinion, in
24 your experience, how many times do you think
25 you've seen a cervical epidural abscess in the

1 people you've treated?

2 MR. SMOLEN: Objection, relevance.

3 Q (By Mr. Miller) Go ahead and answer.

4 A Once.

5 Q Is that this case?

6 A Once prior.

7 Q One other occasion. And how many years
8 have you been a doctor?

9 A 25.

10 Q Is that the first thing that springs to
11 mind with decreased range of motion?

12 A No.

13 Q Is that the second or third or fourth
14 thing that springs to mind with decreased range
15 of motion?

16 A No.

17 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

18 THE WITNESS: No.

19 Q (By Mr. Miller) You may have already
20 testified to this, but the fact that vitals are
21 not included in the records, does that mean
22 definitely they were not taken?

23 A No.

24 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

25 THE WITNESS: No, it does not.

1 Q (By Mr. Miller) In fact, according to
2 one of the records we've seen, he was already
3 scheduled to be seen on the 15th by yourself,
4 even on the 11th, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q So whether or not Mr. Buchanan was
7 scheduled to be seen by you on the morning of
8 the 14th, he had already been scheduled to be
9 seen by you on the -- on the 11th, correct?

10 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: Correct.

12 Q (By Mr. Miller) You would have been
13 seeing him on the 15th regardless of what was
14 written down on the 14th, correct?

15 A Yes.

16 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

17 Q (By Mr. Miller) Do you know a nurse
18 named Rosemary Kotas?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Why was Rosemary Kotas terminated by
21 Turn Key?

22 A I have no idea.

23 Q Do you make any kind of personnel
24 decisions related to nursing staff?

25 A No.

1 Q Okay. So whatever reason she was
2 terminated, that was not your call; is that
3 fair?

4 A Correct. Actually, I didn't know she
5 was terminated.

6 Q (By Mr. Miller) Okay. How about Katie
7 McCullar? Do you know Ms. McCullar?

8 A I don't recall her.

9 Q Okay. I think you testified that you do
10 not recall who contacted you on the morning of
11 the 14th. Do you have any reason to dispute
12 that it was Katie McCullar?

13 A I do not.

14 Q Did you ever speak with any jail
15 employee -- not a Turn Key employee -- but a
16 jail employee about Mr. Buchanan ever?

17 A Not that I recall.

18 Q Do you have any reason to think that
19 jail staff -- not Turn Key staff -- but jail
20 staff believed that Mr. Buchanan was receiving
21 improper or substandard medical care?

22 A I did not.

23 MR. SMOLEN: Objection to the form.

24 Q (By Mr. Miller) Do you have any reason
25 to believe that jail staff prevented Turn Key

1 staff from providing Mr. Buchanan with medical
2 care?

3 A I do not.

4 Q The nurses who Turn Key sends to work at
5 medical facilities, what are their minimum
6 certification requirements?

7 A They have to have a current unrestricted
8 license. They have to have a basic CPR card,
9 first aid.

10 Q Do they have to be at least an LPN?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Licensed practical nurse?

13 A Well, we have med aides. We do have med
14 aides.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And a -- and a few places, we have EMT's
17 as well.

18 Q Okay.

19 A It depends on --

20 Q You would agree that an LPN has more
21 training and more experience -- well, strike
22 that. You would agree an LPN has more training
23 on medical care than your average detention
24 officer, correct?

25 A Correct.

1 Q You would agree that detention officers
2 are generally told to rely for medical purposes
3 on the decision making of the LPN's that are on
4 staff?

5 MR. SMOLEN: Objection to the form.

6 THE WITNESS: Correct.

7 Q (By Mr. Miller) In fact, that's why
8 they're there, right?

9 A Correct.

10 MR. SMOLEN: Objection to the form.

11 Q (By Mr. Miller) There was some question
12 about 168 hours. I just want to be real clear
13 on this. Was Muskogee County Jail a jail during
14 the year 2016 in which Turn Key employees were
15 supposed to be on staff 24 hours a day
16 physically in the facility?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Do you have any reason to think that
19 wasn't true?

20 A No.

21 Q Have you ever heard that that wasn't
22 true?

23 A No.

24 Q Plus a medical provider, meaning
25 yourself, was also on call 24 hours a day,

1 correct?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Do you have any reason to believe that
4 that wasn't, that you weren't on call 24 hours?

5 A I do not.

6 Q You were on call 24 hours?

7 A Yes, I was.

8 Q There was a record -- I don't think we
9 looked at it today -- that suggested something
10 about a lady named Lela Goatley. Who is Lela
11 Goatley?

12 A She's a nurse practitioner.

13 Q Was Lela Goatley ever a nurse
14 practitioner at the Muskogee County Jail with
15 Turn Key?

16 A Yes, at some point.

17 Q Okay. So your earlier testimony was you
18 thought maybe there weren't -- wasn't a nurse
19 practitioner except for maybe a male one at the
20 very beginning?

21 A There was. And Lela worked there -- I
22 don't remember what period of time it was, but
23 she did work there some.

24 Q Okay. So in addition to the male at the
25 very beginning, Lela Goatley was an additional

1 Q Do you know for certain what day that
2 intake form was written?

3 A I do not.

4 Q Could it have been on the 4th, the day
5 after he got there?

6 A That's the most likely date I would
7 choose.

8 Q Why do you say that?

9 A Because that's when they called me about
10 him.

11 Q That's the day that -- the day that you
12 ordered -- Naproxen was ordered, correct?

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q It's also the day that there was a sick
15 call request, correct?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q I think you described that there have
18 been times in which you've gotten calls from
19 jail staff --

20 A Yes.

21 Q -- at the Muskogee County Jail?

22 A Correct.

23 Q How often are the occurrences?

24 A Very.

25 Q Very?

1 A You're correct.

2 MR. SMOLEN: Objection to the form.

3 Q (By Mr. Miller) In a jail that does not
4 have 24-hour medical care -- is the only
5 pipeline of knowledge basically from jail staff
6 directly to you?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Meaning if they have any questions, they
9 have to call you directly --

10 A To whichever provider --

11 Q -- during the night?

12 A -- whichever facility.

13 Q And that's a totally different situation
14 in here where there is 24 hour?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Is there a -- how many jails have 24
17 hours versus don't in your estimation,
18 approximately?

19 A Maybe six have 24 hour.

20 Q Out of the 40 you currently have?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Okay. So it's actually a minority that
23 have 24 hour?

24 A Correct.

25 Q So there is more on-site care at the

1 Muskogee County Jail than most jails; is that
2 fair?

3 A Oh, that's very true.

4 Q Okay. You would agree that if there --
5 if a nurse -- a licensed practical nurse
6 believed there to be an emergency situation,
7 they would contact emergency for them to be
8 transported, correct?

9 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

11 Q (By Mr. Miller) Do you as -- Dr.
12 Cooper, are you required to give the okay to
13 that before they can call emergency?

14 A No.

15 Q Do they have the authority -- a nurse --
16 to do that on their own --

17 A Yes.

18 Q -- for whatever reason if they believe
19 it's an emergency?

20 A Yes, that's stated in the policy.

21 Q Okay. When you spoke with the lady the
22 morning of the 14th who the record suggests was
23 Katie McCullar, did she tell you she thought it
24 was an emergency situation?

25 A I don't believe so.

1 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

2 THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.

3 Q (By Mr. Miller) If she had said she
4 thought it was an emergency situation, would you
5 have probably discussed the option of calling
6 emergency --

7 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

8 Q (By Mr. Miller) -- to take him to the
9 hospital?

10 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, I would have.

12 Q (By Mr. Miller) You would agree that if
13 it's an emergency situation or if a nurse
14 believes it's an emergency situation, they
15 should go to the emergency room, correct?

16 A Correct.

17 Q The on-site minor surgery and things you
18 were discussing earlier --

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q -- what kind of minor surgeries are you
21 discussing there?

22 A Cyst excisions, laceration repair,
23 toenail removals, abscess incision and drainage.

24 Q Are any of those emergencies?

25 A No.

1 Q You don't do emergency surgery at the
2 facility?

3 A No, we do not.

4 Q If it's an emergency --

5 A We do not have an operating room.

6 Q -- go to the emergency room, right?

7 A Right.

8 Q All right. If the nurses believed that
9 none of the particular protocols quite applied
10 to the situation, what are they supposed to do?

11 A Schedule them to see the provider --

12 Q Okay.

13 A -- if it's not an emergency.

14 Q If the nurses testified exactly that,
15 that they didn't quite believe any of these
16 particular protocols matched Mr. Buchanan's
17 situation, but yet also didn't think it was an
18 emergency, what -- what should they have done?

19 A Schedule him to see the provider.

20 Q And he was scheduled to see one of them?

21 MR. SMOLEN: Objection to the form.

22 THE WITNESS: Correct.

23 Q (By Mr. Miller) You would agree nursing
24 protocols don't cover all situations?

25 A Correct.

1 it.

2 Q I don't think we looked at it, but
3 there's Medication Administration Record, M-A-R,
4 and it's on Exhibit 1 DDR#1, 007.

5 A Yes.

6 Q Do you see that?

7 A I do.

8 Q Tell me what this means to you.

9 A Well, it was ordered twice a day. It
10 looks like he received it twice a day from the
11 time it was ordered, except one dose was missed.

12 Q Okay. The morning of the 13th?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And it looks like there's initials in
15 the morning and the evening for every time twice
16 a day with the exception of the 13th, correct?

17 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

18 THE WITNESS: Correct.

19 Q (By Mr. Miller) Does this indicate to
20 you that medical staff or Turn Key were the ones
21 providing him his medication?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Meaning that jail staff for Turn Key saw
24 -- or at least saw him enough to provide him
25 medication on one, two, three, four, five, six,

1 seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve,
2 thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen,
3 eighteen, nineteen -- nineteen occasions?

4 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

5 THE WITNESS: If you counted
6 correctly, yes.

7 Q (By Mr. Miller) Okay, all right. Do
8 Turn Key nurses -- are they always the medical
9 individuals who provide med pass? Is that
10 something that Turn Key nurses do at every
11 facility?

12 A No, we had med aides at some places.

13 Q Okay. So everyone that Turn Key
14 contracts with, it's either a med aide or a
15 licensed professional (sic) nurse; is that fair?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Are you aware of there being any med
18 aides at Muskogee County Jail?

19 A Not that I recall.

20 Q Okay. So the individuals providing the
21 med pass, assuming they're licensed practical
22 nurses, are a higher level of training and
23 experience than at some other jails; is that
24 fair?

25 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

1 A Yeah, unless I've received a phone call
2 and said, Hey, let's see that guy.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Something like that. I may know some of
5 them on the list, but I won't know the entire
6 list of --

7 Q Sure, fair enough. And you did already
8 testify on the morning of the 14th it was
9 discussed that he would be seen, correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q I'm sure other people also would have
12 been seen?

13 A Yes, there was several on the list.

14 Q Okay. Who makes that list, the list
15 that decides who you're going to be seeing?

16 A The nurses and sometimes I tell them to
17 add people to my list, but the nurses generally
18 make most of those.

19 Q Do you know how they make the
20 determination about who needs to be seen by you
21 on your weekly visit?

22 A If they've seen them several times on a
23 nursing protocol and they haven't gotten better,
24 then they'll go ahead and refer them to a
25 provider. Or if it's more severe and they think

1 that a nursing protocol will not help, then
2 they'll go ahead and schedule them for a
3 provider.

4 Q How about if something doesn't quite fit
5 into a nursing protocol?

6 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

7 THE WITNESS: That too.

8 Q (By Mr. Miller) But yet it is an
9 emergency situation?

10 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: No.

12 Q (By Mr. Miller) I think you described
13 that you were not in charge of the staffing of
14 the nurses at the Muskogee County Jail, deciding
15 who would be working on any different shift?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Who was in charge of that?

18 A The regional director.

19 Q And who was that?

20 A It was either Cindy Bilyeu or Nicole
21 Cobb.

22 Q Was she also the one that made hiring
23 decisions, whatever that was?

24 A Yeah, yes.

25 Q Okay.

1 A And they've both been the regional over
2 that facility and I don't remember which one was
3 there at the time.

4 Q Okay. How about the contract? I think
5 one of the exhibits we looked at here, 18,
6 Muskogee County, Oklahoma Contract For Medical
7 Staffing And Administration, I think you
8 testified you had never even seen that, correct?

9 A Not until today.

10 Q And at the back, it's signed by Flint
11 Junod, Chief Operating Officer. I presume what
12 you're saying is rather -- is that Mr. Junod is
13 in charge of contracts, signing up jails, things
14 of that nature?

15 MR. SMOLEN: Object to the form.

16 THE WITNESS: That's correct. He is
17 now the CEO.

18 Q (By Mr. Miller) Okay.

19 A But he -- but at that time, he was the
20 COO.

21 Q Okay. You don't really handle the
22 business side is what I'm --

23 A You're -- you're correct.

24 Q Are you aware of any jail staff,
25 individuals at the Muskogee County Jail, who had

1 any problems or issues with the nursing care
2 provided to Mr. Buchanan?

3 A No.

4 Q Or of the medical care provided by
5 yourself to Mr. Buchanan?

6 A No.

7 Q Has any jail staff or jail employee ever
8 told you that they didn't think you were
9 providing proper care?

10 A No.

11 Q Has any jail staff or jail employee ever
12 told you that they thought Mr. Buchanan had an
13 emergency situation?

14 A No.

15 Q Has any jail staff or jail employee ever
16 told you that other inmates told them that
17 Mr. Buchanan was having an emergency?

18 A No.

19 Q I think you've never talked to any jail
20 staff at all, fair, about Mr. Buchanan?

21 A Not about Mr. Buchanan.

22 Q Sure. Would you agree that a failure to
23 provide transport to an emergency center during
24 an emergency situation would violate your
25 policies?